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Dear Duke

I have been shamefully, and I fear unparadonably, long in thanking you for the acceptable Smith Box, which you have so kindly sent me -

I like very much the Verses on the Top of it - For a long Time I could not read them - I have not get them by heart, and I never take a Pinch of Snuff without paying it more respect, than I do the Personages mentioned on the Lid of the Box - To the Pinch of Snuff I say "Heartily come - the more so from the Respect and very kind feelings I have long, and ever shall have to the Donor of the Box - To the Fellows, mentioned on the lid of the Box, I never fail to say more than a dozen Times over - and Ex Animo, Awa, Whigs away -

I beg my most respectful Regards to the Duchess. I know, that if she was acquainted with the State of my health, when she was in Town, she would ^{not} think me inattentive in not having waited upon her.

I hope to see you in Town soon again. We want all the Strength, that can be collected - I shall fight a hard Battle yet for the Monarchy, the Lords, and the English & Scotch Bishops - tho' I have got on the wrong Side of 83. I am better in Health a good deal, than I have been, and, as an old Man, I will fight, on my Stumps, for the old Constitution in Church, Kirk & State - Thanks for your Bumper, to old Eldon, at your great dinner in Scotland -

Yrs, my dear Duke, affectionately
Eldon

Rec^d on the
28th July 1834 -
E.

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To

His Grace

The Duke of Gordon ^{de la}
Belgrave Square

Wm

